

all those cases where there was a cerebral concussion as a cause of origin of psychoses, and from his careful study of the literature and from observations :

1. Ovariectomy in a seventy-four-year woman, with mania during convalescence, three months after the operation.

2. Ovariectomy in a thirty-one-year-old woman, with attacks of violent excitement ten days after operation, which returned and led to imbecility.

3. Ovariectomy in a forty-two-year-old woman, who had an insane attack in the twenty-fourth year, and then for sixteen years remained completely well, and only four weeks after the operation was she attacked anew.

4. Enucleation of the eyeball in a sixty-year-old woman, with immediately following grave melancholia.

He comes to the conclusion that in rare and exceptional cases an operation may be the cause of origin of a psychosis. Contrary to the rarity of its appearance, he does not think it a contra-indication in individuals predisposed for an operation which otherwise would have to be performed.

Psychoses seems most frequently to follow operations on organs which have an intimate nervous connection with the central nervous system, as the sexual organs and those of sense.

Further, the fever, the loss of blood, and especially the chloroform narcosis, may have a certain influence.

CHOREA HEREDITARIA (HUNTINGTON'S CHOREA).

CHRONIC PROGRESSIVE CHOREA.

Dr. G. Lepilli (*Revist. sperimental. di Freniatr. etc.*, 1888, xiii., p. 453) gives a record of the cases of the disease known up to date, and forms a clinical picture of this rare disease, essentially distinguishing itself by its constant transmission by heredity, often through many generations and then making an outbreak later on, generally between the thirtieth and fortieth years, and by its gradually progressive functional disturbance of always new groups of muscles (even of the tongue), and by its incurability from the usual chorea. The abnormal movements are aggravated by emotions, while they, contrary to the usual form of chorea, may be more or less completely suppressed by intended motions; during sleep they cease completely. Disturbance of sensibility are wanting; the mechanical and electric irritability is unchanged, the reflexes are normal, exceptionally heightened. Especially after a more or less duration of the disease are slight psychic disturbances

strikingly frequent, which may even increase to melancholia with inclination to suicide. This disease, dependent upon a hereditary neuropsychopathic base, is not rarely accompanied by a general progressive dullness of the mind. The members of a family afflicted with this form of chorea who remain free are also frequently demented, or at least bazarre and "nervous." If one generation has been spared, then their posterity may be regarded as immuned.

A MODIFICATION OF WEIGERT'S METHOD FOR THE
COLORATION OF NERVOUS CENTRES.

G. Vassale (*Revista speriment. di Freniatr. ed. medicina leg.*, etc., 1889, xv., p. 102) recommends the following modification of Weigert's method of coloring by hæmatoxyline, where the objects are hardened in Müller's solution or in a kali bichromate solution and kept in alcohol. He uses three solutions.

- 1) Hæmatoxyline, 1 gr. in 100 gr. of hot distilled water.
- 2) A saturated and filtrated solution of cupric acetate.
- 3) Borax, 2 gr. and kalibichromate, 2.5 gr. in 300 gr. of distilled water.

The sections are first placed into solution 1 for three to five minutes, then the same time in solution 2, and after a rapid cleaning are thrown into solution 3, where they lose their color again. Then they are washed again and the water removed by absolute alcohol, brightened up in a carbo-xylol solution (1 carbolic acid, 3 xylol), and then laid into xylol—Canada balsam. After the color being taken out in solution (3), they may again be colored in alum, carmine or picrocarmine.

THE EFFECTS OF EXTIRPATION OF THE CÆLIAC PLEXUS.

A. Lustig (Turin) (*Archiv. per le Scienze med.*, 1889, xiii., 6). This experimenter used dogs, and especially rabbits. The peritonæum was opened and the plexus removed; the technique may be read in the original. Eleven successful rabbit and two dog-experiments yielded the following: The gastro-intestinal tract showed no disturbances. A few hours after the operation a transient glycosuria appeared, which at the most continued two days. An atrophy of the pancreas never appeared. In the first days—sometimes with and sometimes without mellituria—*acetonuria* appeared. This often lasted until death, with continued decrease in the body-weight and the temperature, and with slowing of the respiration; death generally appears in a few weeks from coma acetonicum. Some of the animals recovered. The changes in the kidneys were those of acetonuria.

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